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The Need of the Month — Argentina

THE EUROPEAN HARVEST FIELD

The Man of Macedonia

And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.

And after he had seen the vision immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

—*Acts* 16.9, 10.

Published Bi-monthly by the
AMERICAN-EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
15 PHILIPSE PLACE, YONKERS 3, N. Y.

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Subscription Price, $1.00 for two years: 10c per copy

VOL. XXVIII — MAY-JUNE
No. 3 — 1947

(Formerly located at 156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.)

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for Christian Oneness and Evangelization

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CATHERINE RUTH SMITH, Editor

EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS RECEIVED BY REV. FRED STETTLER, IN SWITZERLAND

Where may I get a Bible? This has been my question for a long time. The Bible which I am reading was lent to me, so that I could keep it only a short time. It is my wish to possess a Bible of my own. I have often tried to obtain one, but I did not succeed; even my parents at Wuppertal had no chance to get it, as the publishing house is burnt out. I should therefore be very glad if you would send me a Bible, and I thank you in advance for your efforts.—E. B. (student), Hannover.

A converted woman asks for a Bible or a New Testament. We should be very thankful to you if you could help us.—E. R., Mansfeld.

I should be greatly obliged to you if you could send me some Bibles and New Testaments to Kassel, because we struggle for every Bible, in order to relieve the need of which we read in the letters. There is, for instance, a woman who asks me to copy the 23rd Psalm for her, because she has no Bible. After having been able to procure one for her family, this woman wants to speak to me; she is now a seeking soul.—E. W., Kassel.

I am so glad to have a Bible! Unfortunately I have not yet thanked you for the Bible which my fourteen-year-old daughter received, who has meanwhile found the Lord and is reading diligently in the Bible. She is so glad to have this present. —E. F., Wiesa.

The hunger for the Word of God is great. Please send me four more Bibles and three New Testaments. I often receive demands for Bibles.—E. P., Dorfmark.

Could you let me have a Bible or New Testament, which a refugee woman is wanting very much?—E. W., Uichteritz.

I am so glad of the fine, good Bible, and so is my grandchild. We love our Bible so much and are fond of reading it. I am so grateful to you for this present.— E. K., Schmoerholm.

In a family where I was visiting, a seventy-two-year-old woman said to me: "I often had a great longing to read the Bible, but I could not read, because I did not possess one." Then she took the Bible and pressed it to her heart, and said: "Now that we have had to leave everything, and are here in this loneliness, separated from all our dear relatives, the dear Lord has given us the Bible."— A. S., Wiedenest.

No day has passed since Christmas that I have not read the Bible. I do it every evening before going to bed. After having read, I have a little talk with my Lord Jesus, and then I fall asleep under the blessing of God.—W. B. (a converted boy), Altenboegge.

I cannot describe to you the joy I had on receiving the Bible, and every day I am so glad to have it. I want to thank you heartily for having sent it to me.— G. Z., Berlin.

Can you help me in my need, and procure me a Bible, for which I should be so glad, especially for the sake of the children?—H. W., Klein Pretzier.

Would it be possible to send us a Bible? We have lost everything on our flight. My mother often sheds tears and says: "We had to lose everything, even our Bible."—U. A., Altenboegge.

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord.—Amos 8.11.

Reentered as second class matter September 7, 1945, at the Post Office at Yonkers, N. Y. under the act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Act of February 28, 1925. Subscription price, 50c per year. Canada and foreign, 75c.

The Need of the Month — Argentina

A quarter of a century ago, in a missionary school in an Eastern city, there lived and worked two people who may claim your further attention. One was a little girl who was studying the Russian language. The other was a young Russian who was preparing himself to preach the Gospel to his own people.

The little girl is now the Secretary-Treasurer of the American-European Fellowship, succeeding her father, Rev. Norman J. Smith. The young man is our honored and beloved missionary, Rev. John Kovalchuk, who, with his wife, ministers to the needy thousands of Slavonic peoples in Argentina and other countries of South America.

In that land, where the rainy season and the winter are now coming, Brother Kovalchuk has just returned from a long missionary journey. Its difficulties, and his devotion, are reminiscent of the travels of St. Paul. Laying aside his excellent English for no less excellent Russian, our brother has written us a number of letters in which he recalls the past, gives the history of his work, speaks of his daughter and her husband who are still in Europe, and tells of his hopes for the future. This is the saga of a soul on fire with zeal for the Gospel. But let him tell his own story.

Berisso, Argentina, March 13, 1947.

Dear sister in the Lord, Catherine Ruth Smith:—

We received your dear letter of January 23rd in due time. We heartily thank you! We ask your forgiveness for delaying somewhat in our reply. We are constantly very much occupied, for we have many labors and anxieties. It is very delightful to us to know that you have an excellent command of the Russian language, and that you have even been teaching it for the past five years at New York University. For this reason we have decided to write you now in Russian. The more so, since it is constantly becoming more difficult for me to express myself in English. Twenty-one years have now passed since we left the United States for Europe, and with God's help we have labored in various countries, without using the English language.

Yes indeed, dear sister, how delightful it is to remember the past, which has so quickly flown. How well I remember when I was still a student in the missionary school! Your dear departed father taught us English. I never shall forget how earnestly and with what love he did this, bending all his efforts and patience to the instruction. You were then still a little girl, but you had already set yourself, with great success, to the study of the Russian language.

Later I went to the Baptist Seminary near Fort Worth, Texas, where I studied and preached in the Russian colony. As a result, there is still in existence there a splendid Slavonic church, with which I carry on a correspondence. My wife joined me there, and began to prepare herself for the work of the Lord. Here our only daughter Anna was born, who now, with her husband, is in Pre-Carpathian Russia. Her husband is a Carpathian Russian, a teacher by profession. He gave himself to the Lord, there, where we worked, and then they were married. Before the war we had to come to Argentina, but they remained in our place, and the whole responsibility of the work fell upon them. During the war they experienced many hardships and privations, but the Lord kept them among the living. Some time ago we heard from them, and learned that they are still in the old place in Bustino, at the prayer-house, and are continuing their testimony. The Lord is giving them souls; several persons have been baptized. During the attacks, the prayer-house was somewhat damaged, and the withdrawing soldiers stole some things. But now, glory to God, everything has been put right and settled. Our Anna and her husband ask when we will return to them, for the need of workers there is a very crying one.

(March 20.) I am continuing my previous letter. First of all, I want to express to you my hearty gratitude for the subscription to the magazine, The Sunday School Times, which you have renewed. This well-known and blessed magazine pleases me very much, since it contains splendid religious material.

But now, dear sister, if you have the opportunity, then help our brethren, who are in great need in Germany, with clothing and food. I receive many letters from them, in which they cry out for aid. These are brethren from the Luninetsky Church, in Poland, where at one time we had the experience of laboring much, and the Lord abundantly blessed us, and many souls gave themselves to the Lord. Now they are in camps and are suffering greatly. They are all crying out for help, both clothing and food.

(Here Brother Kovalchuk gave a number of names and addresses. Relief has been sent to these brethren, in the shape of food and clothing.)

(April 4.) Tomorrow, the Lord willing, I am getting ready to go with my wife to a distant province, Mendoza, for several weeks. There is great need there, and for a long time they have been asking us to visit them. We expect to have the baptism of several souls, as well as a wedding. We will also conduct meetings and visitations at the homes, and so on. Pray that we may have blessing.

I was afraid that I might be detained there, and not be able to write you, as you asked me, by the first of June. Accordingly, though it is not much, and though hurriedly, I have put something together, and am sending it to you immediately, before my departure. I have also sent you several photographs in a separate envelope, by ordinary mail.

(With these words Brother Kovalchuk prefaced his report, which is given just as he wrote it, under the title "Religious Work Among the Slavonic Population of South America.")

Buenos Aires, the capital of the Republic of Argentina, is one of the largest and best centers of our religious work in South America. Here we have several Russian Evangelical churches, with branches in different parts of the city and its suburbs. There are a great number of Slavonic people in this city, such as Russians, White Russians, Ukrainians, Poles, Czechs, Bulgarians, etc. For the most part they live widely scattered, but in certain places in the suburbs they are more thickly settled, and there, of course, is the best place to have meetings. Among them there are many different political, cultural, and other organizations and clubs. They publish magazines in the various Slavonic languages, and other kinds of periodical literature, and disseminate them widely through the whole of South America, where immigrants are located. The occupations of the Slavonic immigrants in the cities are various, but the majority of them work in factories, mills, and at various handicrafts. Their material condition is poor; only, during the past few years, when because of the war-time the works were in full operation, the condition of the people was somewhat improved. For the older people, who were the first to arrive in the new world, not knowing the language and the customs, it is much harder to get along in all the relationships of life. The next generation, the young people and the children who were born here, get along incomparably better, feeling themselves at home.

Now something about the religious work among the Slavonic immigrants everywhere in South America. Many of those who came here were of the Evangelical persuasion, especially those who arrived from the parts of White Russia and Ukrainia which belonged, before the war, to Poland, and also from Bessarabia (formerly Roumania), Carpathian Russia, and from other countries where, after the first World War, there was a great dispersion of Russian fugitives and settlers, cast out into strange places by their own various fortunes and by the providence of God. The Evangelical believers, on arriving here and settling in various places in the different republics, began to organize

themselves into groups and societies and conduct divine worship, and also, where it was possible, they carried on missionary work. It is true that the religious work suffered a great deal at the beginning, first because the immigrants were too much occupied with anxiety for establishing themselves in their new places of residence. They settled in the virgin forests of Paraguay, Misiones, Brazil, the plains of Uruguay, and other places. There, among the woods and desolate places, they cleaned out the trees, cleared the land, sowed with great difficulty, breaking their way through, and raising enough food to save themselves from starvation. Second, there were no experienced, dedicated workers, prepared for their tasks, who would have been able to devote all their time to the religious work, and even now there are not enough of these. Certain harmful false teachings began to break out, which led to a great decline in the work. In travelling in various places, I have had occasion to hear incredible things, which had happened in certain colonies, where false prophets appeared, calling themselves special ambassadors, speaking with tongues and foretelling the future, etc. Then they were discovered in the grossest sins of conduct. This had a very bad effect on the unbelieving people around them.

Something about my own personal work in South America. After eight years of blessed and fruitful work on the harvest-field of God, in former Pre-Carpathian Russia, in Czechoslovakia, and then in Hungary, we were obliged to come here, because of the outbreak of the second World War. We shall never forget how clearly and definitely the Lord guided and preserved us at that time. Nor shall we ever forget the love and brotherly concern of our always dear departed brother, Rev. Norman J. Smith, which always, like the angel of God, appeared to rescue us. Glory to Him for His faithful servants.

We reached Buenos Aires on the Italian steamer "Conte Grande" on the morning of January 18, 1940. A large group of believers met us with great joy. For a long time they had been urging us to come here to work, and had been praying for our arrival. Here we met many acquaintances, and also some who had come to the faith through our service in various places in Europe. There was great joy. At our first meeting in Buenos Aires, the Society of Evangelical Christians and Baptists, without even asking our consent, unanimously chose me as its leader, and then, a couple of weeks later, at its annual conference, unanimously chose me as the president of the Union of Evangelical Christians and Baptists of the Republics of La Plata (the Russian Union). From that time to the present day, it has been my fate to labor, so far as my powers permit, both in the center of Buenos Aires and in its suburbs. I have also had to make many trips, visiting the vast field of work in Argentina and in the other neighboring republics.

As I have already said, Buenos Aires is the best center for our religious work. This city is the largest in the whole of South America, in population, and the largest center of industry. People are continually coming here from the various cities and republics. In addition to the regular divine service in our churches, we often have special meetings, notice of which is widely given through our local Russian newspapers, and we also print notices and distribute them throughout the city. A great many people come to such meetings. The large hall in one of the centres of Buenos Aires, which we hire, and which holds as many as four hundred people, is filled, and for lack of room the people have to stand. This is a wonderful opportunity for testimony by means of singing, music, preaching, and so on. We distribute a great deal of literature, the Holy Scriptures, magazines, books and tracts. Meetings are held also in other cities near Buenos Aires, such as the city of Berisso. There is also a great need for house-to-house visitation, in the hospitals, and other places.

From time to time we have to make circuit tours, holding edifying meetings and meetings of invitation, and having conversations, visiting the homes

Such trips are prolonged and fatiguing. Here is one of these circuits, starting with one of our brothers by steamer from Buenos Aires to Paisanda, Uruguay. The next day, we were met at the harbor by our brother and fellow-worker, with his two sisters who are singers. With them, in our brother's small automobile, we started for the Russian town of San Xavier, where labors our fellow-worker, the elderly brother Timothy Kobak. This little town was settled by Russian immigrants; even the people of other nationalities who live here speak Russian. Here we spent a whole week, holding meetings and visiting homes in the town and in the settlements.

At the last meeting, on Sunday, we baptized two persons in the Uruguay River. This was a good opportunity for testifying to the people of the town. As we used to do in Poland and other countries, all of us believers walked through the town to the river, singing Evangelical songs. Others followed us. On the bank of the river, we read the appropriate passages from the Word of God, explained the meaning of baptism, gave our testimony, and then performed the baptism. In this town and the surrounding region, from time to time, we have special meetings, coming here with our chorus and orchestra. A great deal of seed has already been sown here, and we believe that the time will come when the Lord will send an awakening. His promise is faithful and unchangeable.

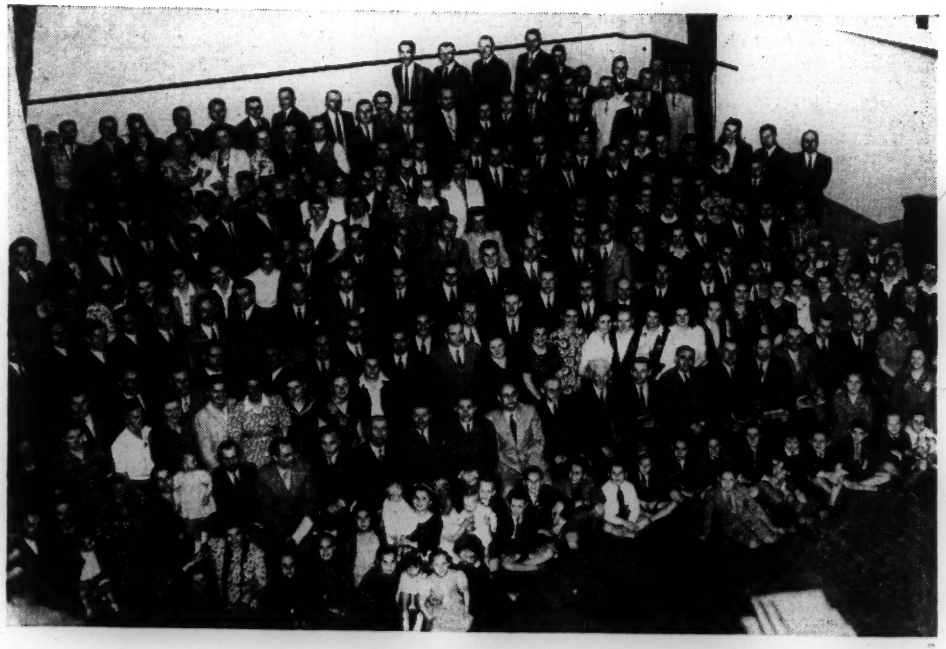
Then we journeyed to the Colony of Flores, some 300 kilometers away. Here we have a Russian society with about sixty members. There is need of a permanent, experienced worker. Here they have a small prayer-house, temporarily constructed of tin, which has proved to be too small for the constantly increasing crowds. They are preparing to build a large hall of brick, the Lord permitting. Here we passed about a week and a half, holding meetings of invitation and edification in the evenings. In the daytime, every day, we travelled around among the homes, visiting the colonists and having personal conversations. The Lord blessed our sojourn in this colony also. All were grateful and asked us to come again as soon as possible, in order to spend a much longer time with them.

We then entered the Republic of Paraguay, crossing the Parana River by boats, and came to the city of Incarnacion. In Paraguay there are a great many Slavonic people, who are engaged in farming. There are many of our believers here, and they have their own societies and their own large prayer-houses, which they themselves have built of wood or their own bricks. Unfortunately, here also there are no permanent workers who are experienced and prepared for the work. One brother among them was chosen and ordained to be the leader; he is a sincere and consecrated Christian. But he cannot give his full time to the work of God, since he has a large family, and must work in the field, in order to keep them.

We were present here for the annual conference of the Slavonic churches. After such conferences we usually hold meetings among the societies for several weeks. The heart rejoices, seeing the great number of people flowing together to the meeting, to the house of prayer. The splendid choirs, orchestras, and congregational singing of the Evangelical hymns are a delight to the soul. How vividly they recall Europe, Poland, Ukrainia, White Russia, Carpathian Russia, where it often used to seem that there was joy without end. Such was the great awakening there, everywhere.

After serving for some time in Paraguay, we crossed the Parana River into the province of Misiones. Here, as in Paraguay also, there are many of our believers, and because the towns are so far apart, there is a regional Slavonic Union. They have their own houses of prayer, built of wood or brick. There is a vast field for religious work, both among the believers, and also there are a great many people who have not yet come to the faith. Unfortunately, here also there is no suitable worker. The need of a worker here, who could devote all his time, and who would be truly called to such pioneer labor, is very great. May the Lord provide!

THE COMMON PEOPLE HEARD HIM GLADLY



MANY WERE GATHERED TOGETHER

ONE OF BROTHER KOVALCHUK'S UNION SERVICES IN BUENOS AIRES

Finally, after two months of visitation and circuit, we took the train at Posadas, Misiones, and in two days arrived in Buenos Aires, tired and worn out. But glory to the Lord for every opportunity to serve Him.

(May 16.) On returning home, we found your letter, for which we send our hearty thanks. A great deal of work had piled up in our center here, and much correspondence was also awaiting us.

At our special Easter service we had a rich program, in which the leading part was taken by our young people. There were many recitations of Easter poems in various languages, namely, Russian, Ukrainian, Czech, Spanish; reading from the Word of God, much singing, and playing on various musical instruments. My wife played a solo on the handsaw, and then she, with one of the brothers, played a duet, he on the violin, and she on the handsaw. Those who heard the music of the saw for the first time were very much astonished, that this instrument was not only good for sawing trees, but that on it one could praise the Lord. Its tender, touching sound penetrated into the hearts of the listeners, playing that wonderful hymn which is known to everyone, "Nearer, my God, to Thee." There were a great many people present, and how attentively they listened! All this took place late in the evening, or, more correctly speaking, at night, in the bosom of nature, under the open sky, near a poor farmer's small house, in which the meetings are usually held. Because there was not room enough inside, it was decided to hold this special meeting in the open air. A number of torches and lamps were burning, lighting up the meeting-place and all those who were present. The beautiful southern sky was bright with scattered myriads of clear, sparkling stars. On that night the moon, as if with special generosity, poured forth its light upon us who had gathered to praise our Creator here in the wilds of the province of Mendoza, in South America, far, far from our native land. It seemed that even the fields which surrounded us, the forests, the tall stately poplars, and all nature, above and below, was paying attention and listening to everything that was going on, as we praised our Risen Saviour, who in truth is worthy of ineffable gratitude and glory. There came to mind the words of the Psalmist: "How good and how excellent it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

At the conclusion, I had a splendid opportunity to read certain passages from the Word of God, which speak of Christ, who came and who rose for the sake of our redemption; and to preach the Word. Then, with fervent prayers of gratitude, the meeting came to an end, and everyone departed and went to his own place, rejoicing and praising the Lord. Such meetings are held very frequently among our Russian churches, so that the young people may have an opportunity to testify and to become spiritually strengthened.

The next special meeting was on the occasion of the wedding of a young couple, who had given themselves to the Lord in their very early youth, and who are members of the church. Such meetings, with us, also afford a splendid opportunity for testifying. A great many people gather, in order to see how the believers solemnize their marriages, according to the Word of God. Therefore, taking advantage of such an occasion, it is possible to testify concerning Christ and the life in Him, about the wedded life, and so on.

The third special meeting was on the occasion of a baptism at the river. The banks of the river were covered with people, who had come to see how this was done too, in obedience to the Lord's command. Here also there was a splendid occasion to testify, in word, and in the rite of baptism. On returning from the river to the hall, we celebrated the Lord's Supper. There were many other special meetings, and the Lord abundantly blessed our house-to-house visitations. May He bless all that we have sown in our weakness, and make it to grow in His power, and may His wondrous holy Name be praised! Yours in His service,

JOHN KOVALCHUK.

In the Cauldron of Russia

LIFE OF THE REV. I. S. PROKHANOFF. Second Installment

I was born on the seventeenth day of April, 1869, in the city of Vladikavkaz, in the Caucasus. The region is really Asiatic in character, and the cities are cosmospolitan. But the most salient feature of this province is its great natural beauty and charm. There are snow-capped mountains and peaceful pastoral scenes. The Caucasus was largely peopled by religious dissenters who had been banished by the government. My parents belonged to the Molokans, who hoped to find there the religious freedom denied them elsewhere in Russia.

My mother has often told me that when I was ten days old I became unconscious, apparently died, and was even prepared for burial. But before the service began, I opened my eyes and started to cry. I have often thought that Satan wished to cut my life short at the very beginning, but God did not permit him.

When I was about eight years old my brother Alexander and I were put under a private teacher, an old Bohemian, who taught us to read and write. After leaving his tutorship, we entered the primary school. At the age of twelve, I was accepted for the high school, from which I graduated in 1887.

Even as a boy I was serious-minded, given to thoughts of the infinite and of God; I also pitied all suffering people, even the backward students at school. I sometimes stayed after lessons in order to help them. In the same way I felt a great compassion for dumb animals. I liked to be with the grown-ups and to listen to their conversation. Also my brother and I spent many happy days in the country. In the summer evenings we had tea out-of-doors, and as we sat around the samovar, my father and grandmothers would tell stories of the old days.

Of all the subjects at school, I liked best history and literature, particularly poetry. More than any other writer, Dostoyevsky captivated me, because of his description of the sufferings of the people. I also read some of the secret literature which was being disseminated in Russia at that time, advocating the freedom of the people. I sympathized with these ideals, but could not become entangled with the political movements. I could not agree with them, because they denied Christ and every kind of religion. In rejecting religion, the leaders of the liberation movements in Russia have rejected the only power by which their purpose could be attained.

I had a strong love for the beauty of nature, and was inspired to write at an early age, both poetry and prose. I desired to devote my life to the cause of freedom for my people. Once in a dream I seemed to see Christ standing in a public park in Vladikavkaz, throwing gold coins to the people. I had a sack and gathered up many of the coins, but when I looked again, I saw that there was a hole in the sack and the coins had streamed out, and the people had picked them up. My brother, who was with me in the dream, said: "Look, all the coins have gone!" I replied, "All right; they were for the people." This dream strengthened my feeling that God's purpose for my life was that I should be a transmitter of His gifts to needy humanity.

My conversion took place in the autumn of 1886. I had been reading some of the pessimistic philosophers, and pondering on the real purpose of life. At that adolescent period of transition, my heart was crying out for the living God. One evening I began to read some familiar verses, such as, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life," and in a flash the Gospel truth lighted my consciousness, and all my doubts disappeared. In accordance with this new purpose, I began to shape my life. I heard an inward voice, which called me to go to St. Petersburg and enter the Institute of Technology.

(*To be continued*)

Letters from the Field

(Paris, April 30.) My dear prayer-helpers: After the sowing of thousands of Gospels and tracts, there has been reaping to the glory of God. Some afternoons spent in the big hospitals have had God's favor and blessing. We enter the ward, overcrowded with patients, and we minister to all with the Word. They all suffer, and they all have needs beyond human help. As I stood at the door looking down over the long rows of beds, I saw a delightful sight: they were all reading John's Gospel.

An hour's drive outside Paris there is a big sanatorium; over three thousand so-called hopeless cases are there. And that day, walking in and out of the wards, giving the Word, praying with despairing souls, I understood a little of what the fellowship of His sufferings is. Will you pour streams of living water on this thirsty land with the prayer of faith?

A young Jewish woman from Vienna is radiant with the joy of salvation; she is faithful in reading the Bible, and comes regularly to our classes. The Polish-Jewish doctor has bowed to the Son of God; it is always a solemn moment when a pious Hebrew acknowledges Christ to be the Lord and Saviour.

There is one little boy, so wonderfully sweet and beautiful, you would all love to have him for your own. He is saved, and has great love for the Word of God, and for Jesus Christ. One day I told him the story of D. L. Moody, how he loved and served Jesus as a child; and when he heard a pastor say that the world still had need of a man through whom God could show His power, my little Jean-Pierre said that he too would serve the Lord all his life. His father has for years been ill in a sanatorium, and the little mother, now a Christian, is working in a factory to support the two of them. She has been ill lately, and is in great need of rest, so the boy is often with us. He likes it well, and is a blessing to all who come here.

Two artists, a couple, have turned from strong opposition to earnest seeking, and are coming regularly for Bible study. The argument which is convincing to them is, that we have peace and joy under circumstances that are contrary. We have passed a long, cold winter without heating, and can praise the Lord for His grace and protection; and we do thank Him for every one of you who have ministered to us in different ways, most of all for the fellowship in prayer. There are many others: blind people to whom I read, calls and visits, letters and burdens for so many suffering ones. "Behold the Lamb of God" is my greeting to you all.—TORDIS CHRISTOFFERSEN.

(Znojmo, Czechoslovakia, May 15.) Dear prayer-helpers: It is wonderful of the Lord to give encouragements on the way, and let us see some fruit of our efforts, even of long ago. For eight years before the war we had a lively correspondence with a Sabbatist elder; it was a fatiguing task, with almost weekly letters. Recently we located this friend, who is now a post-office director in a northern town, and glad to hear that we are back again. He writes: "I can inform you that I have had great experiences with the Lord, of decisive importance for my life. The literature you have been sending me from time to time, I keep constantly at hand, and during the occupation I drew continual encouragement and strength therefrom."

Another encouraging case is that of the music-teacher, Miss P., who is growing in every respect. She had been snatched from the delusion of Spiritism, and it was a great fight. When she came to the end of her own resources, then the light could reach her. Now she is volunteering to help in various ways, and is desirous to learn more of the Word, to help others.

Our faithful sister that gathers the unfortunate scum from the streets, has to suffer all kinds of insults for her labor of love. Since gain is the leading motive in everything, they ask her: "What are you paid for it?" They cannot comprehend anybody working for the general good.

The transport difficulties hinder us from reaching as far as formerly. Since a kind friend provided us with tires from the United States, which the ration system would not allow us here, we were able to fix up two bicycles, and used the first promising day for a twenty-six-mile trip, to visit some of the repatriated Czech people from Wolhynia. Their forefathers had left here because of religious intolerance, but the descendants have lost their former zeal for the Word of God. One thing we have learned is, that it takes too much time and strength to go on such long trips on bicycles. We have to limit ourselves to short local trips, until the Lord provides other means of travel.

But how precious it is to see the progress of some, in the truth of salvation! There is Mr. F., a very quiet old gentleman, not apt to say much. But when he does make a remark, it is from the depths of his heart. Lately we had opportunity of observing him in dealing with others, and were delighted at his straightforward, plain testimony.

Mrs. B., who is taking a course in nurses' training, also shows evident progress. Though very busy in her studies and practical work in the hospital, she takes time for the five weekly meetings, and even invites others. She loves to tell how she spoke with various ones, spending as much as an hour with a woman who seemed interested.

Our activity is spreading again. From the mountains in the northern part of the country we had a request for Scriptures, which proved to be a test. The writer said he had used our readiness to serve as a point of contact with an infidel comrade, to prove to him the reality in following the living Christ. We were glad that your generosity enabled us to meet this opportunity. Also contacted a former Czech school-teacher, who has lived for thirty-two years in the Black Sea district of Russia. He was two years in concentration camps in Western Germany, and sees no use of trying to go back home, as everything will have been destroyed, and there is little or no chance to rebuild.

Nor are we unmindful of your needs, dear prayer-helpers. We would love to hear from you, about your problems, though we cannot promise to answer as fully as we would like, for our time has to be used for the first things first. We appreciate the fact that some do write. "Keep the home fires burning" has more than one application. We love a word of cheer from you. —CHARLES AND EDNA LUKESH.

(Biel-Mett, Switzerland, April 20.) Beloved Friends in Christ: There was a time when Europe used to be the mother of culture, the cradle of everything lofty and worth-while. From it, untold Gospel blessings went out into the uttermost parts of the world. It used to be the stronghold of the Gospel. It produced mighty reformers and valiant men of God, who laid the foundations of much that we hold dear. It stood against the onslaught of heathenism, the hordes of the Tartars from Asia, the Mohammedan Turks from Asia Minor, etc.

Alas, it has become the habitation of evil spirits, the fighting-center of the world. Where are the Gospel centers of apostolic days in Palestine? Where are the seven churches of Revelation 2.-3.? Where are the world-renowned church centers of North Africa? Did not God remove their candlestick out of its place—because they did not repent? Europe, that was exalted and blessed with so many blessings unto the heavens, has it not been cast down unto Hades? Those that have been first, have become last.

While Europe warded off the flood of Islam from without, it succumbed to heathenish doctrines from within. Nearly all of our schools of higher learning teach the exaltation of man, the superiority of human reason, and discard the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ as superfluous.

There has never been a judgment, except God has revealed, too, some mercy, in an effort to save men from the abyss. And this silver lining reveals

itself in the craving hunger for Christian literature, in the fact that one can evangelize summer and winter, with the assurance that all halls are filled up, in many places, in Germany, and in France and Holland.

While we used between 2500 and 3000 pounds of Gospel literature during the year 1946, in the first two months of 1947 we used 965 pounds. Hurried applications have been sent to various agencies to supply immediately several thousand New Testaments. Half and whole days are spent in packing. Of late we have sent large quantities to Germany, Roumania, Austria, Italy, and England.

Some years ago, while we were evangelizing in Poland, a certain bookkeeper found Christ under our ministry. During the war his whole family was disrupted, no one knows whether the wife and children are alive, and the man's weight has gone down from about 170 pounds to 95 pounds. He is in some camp in Austria, and remembered my address, after two years of intense suffering. He wrote me. Immediately a package with clothes and food was sent. Christian literature followed, and now he is doing a blessed missionary service among these uprooted refugees.

Russian and Ukrainian literature has been sent for the use of displaced persons in Italy. German Gospel literature has gone to prisoners of war in England. Roumania has asked for thousands of Scripture portions and tracts. From day to day we leave, with a sort of freight-car attached to the bicycle, for the postoffice, to fetch the mails, and get the packages of clothing and food that friends send us to be shipped to the needy. Some 260 shipments have been received, registered, unwrapped, acknowledged and sent off again. Up to date we have sent 200 food parcels of 22 pounds each to needy believers and refugees, and some 200 packages containing clothing, each 11 pounds. Many wrote that when they got it, it was like Christmas. Often the whole families would kneel down in prayer to thank the Lord. A recent letter said: "When the chocolate was unpacked, the children asked: 'Daddy, what is this?' They had never eaten chocolate in their lives."

Since last November we have sent some 200 pounds of cod-liver oil to the refugees and their children, thus saving many from the threat of tuberculosis. We have found places for more than a dozen children, where they might have a home for some three months. Usually they are clothed from head to foot, and fed well, so that they may return to their homes, to take up life at its hardest again.

Those of you who have helped and encouraged us, in this work of faith, we desire to thank very much. Some have sent packages, others have written words of encouragement, and have sent their gifts, without which we never could have carried on. Many have assured us of their prayers and love. We are here to be helpful in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. We trust you will keep on praying for us. May the Lord Jesus Christ, who has called us into His service, further draw us to Himself and to one another, that we may run, and not faint.—FRED AND MARTHA STETTLER.

(Sofia, Bulgaria, May 7.) My dear friends: Rev. Norman J. Smith, our most beloved saintly friend and secretary, is no longer among the living. He has entered into the joy of the Lord! Indeed, we miss him. He was an example of real and absolute faithfulness and persistence in the things of Christ, a man of patience and consecration. For all his friends and missionaries he was brotherly-kind, loving, good and noble. His holy memory will be forever in our hearts and souls.

God's wonderful providence has arranged that his beloved and highly educated daughter should take his mantle, his place and position on the Board of the American-European Fellowship. We feel as though his spirit is manifesting itself through the work of his own daughter, our beloved new secretary. We have good reason to be heartily thankful to Almighty God for this happy event, and at the same time to pray moment by moment for her,

that she may be able to do her best in the great missionary enterprise of our own missionary board. Let us look to Him for blessings beyond our expectations!

I wish, at the very beginning of this letter, to express to all our dear friends our hearty gratitude for those packages of clothing which Brother Smith in the past, and now Dr. Smith, have sent for our personal family needs and for distribution to needy persons. I am glad to say that all packages have reached me safely and have brought unspeakable joy and happiness to all of us. Many took the clothing with tears in their eyes, as they thanked me. In their behalf and in the name of my own family, we wish once more to express the deepest gratitude to the unknown, noble givers, to those who have gathered and sent this to us. Of course, there are many more who need clothing, and I will be only too happy to minister to them if new packages are forthcoming. May God bless the donors above all that we may ask or think, and give them good health and prosperity in life.

Conditions in Bulgaria after the war are entirely different from those before it. We are passing through great political and social reforms. The religious life of the Bulgarian people is undergoing a crisis. Ungodliness is widespread; there is no Christian education in primary, junior, high schools or universities. The Christian educational work is left in the hands of the National Orthodox Church. She is doing her best, but this church is not ready for such an enormous educational enterprise. After the war, the government separated the National Orthodox Church from the State. The new situation has thrown a bridge of mutual understanding between this church and the Protestants. Our hearts are lifted with joy, when we see Greek Orthodox priests come to our churches, to sing our beautiful hymns and even to preach the Gospel from our Protestant pulpits. Such a thing never could happen in the past. There are signs of a great spiritual revival in the Orthodox Church and in the whole nation. Our people need Christ and the Word of God.

A few years ago our finest Christian philosopher, writer and poet, Stoian H. Vatralsky, a graduate of Harvard University, died. He lived in a beautiful village near Sofia, and had his own large garden, where he wrote twenty-five Christian books. The people called him the Bulgarian Tolstoy. His life was a rich ministry to Christ, and he lived and died a real saint. In tribute to him, the church desired to hold a memorial service, and I was in charge of arranging the whole program. It was not an easy matter, but by God's help I did my best. The church was filled, and there were even people standing. Our young minister gave a splendid talk, and described Vatralsky's rich, fruitful life. Students in our universities, young people of our church, recited several of his best-known poems, reflecting his deep thought and Christian experience. This memorial service made a deep impression on the minds and souls of the great audience.—PAULINA NIKOFF.

(St. Petersburg, Florida, April 30.) Dear Friends of Israel: During the tourist season one is eager to buy up the splendid opportunities which abound to make the Saviour known. This city and the beaches close by were swarming with people all winter. Many Jewish folk being among the multitudes, every effort was made to reach them with the life-giving Word. Two severe accidents prevented my doing all that was in my heart. I fell twice, once on a sidewalk in Tampa, which resulted in bruises and shock; the second time in my own home, with a slight concussion of the brain and considerable shock. The Lord was gracious, raising me up once more in answer to prayer.

By His enabling, five or six trips were made to the industrial city of Tampa during the season. The Jewish population of this city has increased considerably, resulting in a number of new business ventures, one being a fine cafeteria. There scores of new opportunities to witness to Jewish and Gentile patrons were found. I was at liberty to speak and distribute Scripture leaflets and booklets in shop calls also.

In St. Petersburg we find open doors and even open hearts, in answer to prayer. God is able. A dear lady volunteer and I were thus led to call on a bereaved Jewess one day, to bring her the comfort of the Scriptures. We found two other ladies of the same faith with her, and had great liberty in proclaiming the blessed hope of a living Saviour and soon-coming Deliverer. The Scripture leaflets were acceptable to all, while two of the ladies desired copies of the New Testament.

For the Passover this year we sent out 456 letters with Scripture leaflets and booklets. May God bless all who had a part in helping by prayers, gifts, and by addressing the envelopes. A doctor liked the literature and made several trips to locate and find us in. "I am definitely interested," he said. Being told that we had the New Testament for free distribution, he requested a copy for himself, and several to pass on to interested friends. Will you not join us in prayer for the salvation of these dear people? May you realize God's rich blessing in turn, dear friends.—JEAN RHODE.

(Dannigkow, Germany, March 27.) I have lost everything in this war, my dear mother too. I am far from believing friends, standing alone in this world. I am longing to get in touch with you, who can help in prayer and supplication for me and for others who are in great need.—EMILIA SCHMIDT.

(Uslar-Solling, Germany, March 26.) Dear Dr. Smith: Thank you very much for sending your magazine. But the joy on reading the names of my dear brethren and friends, F. Spencer Johnson, Tordis Christoffersen, Fred Stettler, John Kovalchuk, Jean Rhode and Philip Manetz, was much reduced when I read of the removal of our much esteemed and beloved Rev. Norman J. Smith, your dear father. Be assured of my deepest sympathy, my dear Miss Smith. You only know best what you have lost by the death of your father. May the Lord, who has permitted this grief for you, give you His abundant consolation. We feel His nearness much more when we are in afflictions, and it is wonderful to know that He never leaves us alone with our difficulties and sorrows, but comes to us with His help and His blessing.

At the end of the war we had to endure a very hard time, after our flight in January, 1945, from Lodz, where we had lived since 1940. Since our arrival at Uslar in July, 1945, I have preached the Gospel in small and large towns, especially in the Rhineland and in Westphalia. Meetings are well attended, sometimes the halls are overcrowded.

The young people, especially, are much interested in the Word of God, and I could tell you of many conversions, of the good and fresh testimonies I have heard from them. I remember with pleasure a Gospel-week I held in a small town in Westphalia, where I spoke in a church three times to young boys and girls. About a hundred and twenty were present. In the last meeting, there were several of them who said: "Lord, we give our hearts to Thee," and others added, "For all eternity."

My publishing-house at Warsaw and Lodz, and most of my Christian literature, including six thousand Bibles, were destroyed by the Gestapo in 1942. For eighteen months I have been making efforts to reopen my publishing-house, but up to now, have seen no progress in this matter. We suffer also from a great lack of paper. Our poor fugitives still long the most for Bibles, and I am always very happy when I receive Bible-consignments, so that I can help our brethren and sisters.

We should also be very much pleased if we could get food and clothing parcels, for which we have a great need. Here are so many fugitives that we can use everything. They have lost all their goods, and have suffered terribly during their flight, so that they are grateful for every little gift. I am so thankful to the Lord that our connection, interrupted by the war, is again re-established, and I hope it will be much blessed in the future.—BERNHARD GOETZE.

AMERICAN-EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIP RECEIPTS -- APRIL AND MAY, 1947

(The First National Bank in Yonkers is depositary for all gifts.)

31424----$2.00
31425-----1.00
31426----50.00
31427-----5.00
31428----15.00
31429-----1.00
31430-----1.00
31431----75.00
31432----18.00
31433----10.00
31434----10.00
31435----10.00
31436----10.00
31437----11.00
31438-----1.00
31439-----1.00
31440----75.00
31441----10.00
31442----50.00
31443----30.00
31444----15.00
31445----13.00
31446-----5.00
31447-----5.00
31448-----2.00
31449-----5.00
31450----50.00
31451----15.00
31452-----5.00
31453-----6.50
31454-----5.00

31455----$1.00
31456-----2.00
31457----10.00
31458-----1.00
31459-----1.00
31460-----5.00
31461----35.00
31462-----1.00
31463----12.00
31464-----5.00
31465-----5.00
31466----17.00
31467-----1.00
31468-----3.00
31469-----5.00
31470----15.00
31471----25.00
31472----30.00
31473-----5.00
31474----10.00
31475----56.00
31476-----3.62
31477-----5.00
31478-----2.00
31479-----1.00
31480----15.00
31481-----2.00
31482----65.00
31483-----1.00
31484----18.00
31485-----1.00

31486---$60.00
31487----25.00
31488----10.00
31489-----1.00
31490-----8.00
31491-----5.00
31492----10.00
31493----50.00
31494----10.00
31495-----5.00
31496----50.00
31497---120.00
31498-----2.00
31499-----5.00
31500-----1.00
31501----10.00
31502----10.00
31503----75.00
31504-----4.00
31505-----2.00
31506----16.00
31507-----8.00
31508----22.50
31509------.10
31510----10.00
31511----10.00
31512-----2.00
31513-----1.00
31514-----2.00
31515-----2.00
31516-----1.00

31517----$5.00
31518-----5.00
31519-----5.00
31520----20.00
31521----10.00
31522-----2.00
31523-----1.00
31524-----2.00
31525-----5.00
31526-----6.15
31527-----5.00
31528-----5.00
31529----10.00
31530----14.07
31531----15.00
31532----25.00
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31536----50.00
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31538-----1.00
31539-----2.00
31540-----1.00
31541----50.00
31542-----2.00
31543-----5.00
31544----35.00
31545-----5.00
31546----17.00
31547-----1.00

"Apples of Gold in Pictures of Silver"

A sudden and unexpected windfall enables me to send out a few small checks to those missions in which I am especially interested, and to which I am able to contribute so little since the death of my good husband. So now here is one for you, whose work is so much upon my heart. With earnest prayer that the dear Lord will abundantly bless you and your good work, and use even my small gift to His glory, I am, sincerely and appreciatively yours, Mrs. W. H. B.

Enclosed is another check which we are indeed privileged to contribute toward your work. It has been a pleasure to be in touch with you this past year. May the Lord continue to bless you.—F. H.

I have had such a blessed afternoon with the last two numbers of THE EUROPEAN HARVEST FIELD. The tributes to your father were precious. How the letters make one's heart reach upward to the Throne of Grace for those serving and suffering in the hard places! It makes me ashamed of my pleasant and comfortable surroundings. But the Lord knows whom He can use and trust with service in the hard fields—and I pray He will garrison their hearts and minds in these trying days as they continue to trust in His faithfulness. —M. G. F.